

## Comprehension practice

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: / / 2025

Grade: 4 (A, B, C, D, E)

### Text A

The extracts below are written by Juliet, an ISS astronaut.

#### 180 days in space

##### **Mission MY0314 – day 10**

Living in space is like being stranded on a deserted island. My colleagues, Tina and Yuri, and I have to survive together for the next six months. For our mission to be a success, we must be a good team. We share the cleaning jobs and repairs and talk over any problems or difficulties we're experiencing.

##### **Mission MY0314 – day 37**

We see many sunrises as we continually orbit the Earth. Mission Control decides when our day begins. Our day starts with a wake-up call. Next we unhook our sleeping bags from the wall clips we're dangling from. It's a skill getting a good night's sleep here! 5

##### **Mission MY0314 – day 90**

It's official – the food's tasteless! I'm bored with the same old choices and the strict meal routine we have to follow. Still, I need to stay in shape ... so I eat it 10 anyway. Even the chocolate cake is bland.

##### **Mission MY0314 – day 121**

My compulsory two-hour exercise session felt extraordinarily hard today. I must stay fit and strong to complete tasks. Today, though, I could've given up! I'm really struggling with the isolation. Thank goodness I have free time later. I'll email home.

Read **Text A**, in the Insert, and answer questions 9–14.

1 How do we immediately know that the extracts are from a diary?

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[1]

2 How do the astronauts on the ISS stay healthy? Give **two** ways.

• \_\_\_\_\_

• \_\_\_\_\_ [2]

3 Look at this sentence: 'Living in space is like being stranded on a deserted island.' (Line 1)

(a) What is the sentence above an example of? Tick (✓) **one** box.

simile

alliteration

onomatopoeia

personification

[1]

(b) Why do you think living in space is like being stranded on a deserted island? Give **one** idea.

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[1]

4 Look at the diary entry for day 90 (lines 9–11).

(a) The writer uses punctuation to emphasise how boring the meals are.

Explain how. Give **two** ideas.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ [2]

(b) Give **one** word from lines 9–11 that means the same as *tasteless*.

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

5 The astronaut's feelings about life on the ISS change.

Explain how her feelings change. Give **one** quotation from the text to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ [2]

6 Explain what you think the astronaut finds hardest about living on the ISS. Give **one** quotation from the text to support your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_

[2]

## Text B

### Robots rule!

News for Kids (NfK) gets a sneak peek of a new robot exhibition in Chicago, Illinois.

By *News for Kids* reporter Peter Shaw

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Bionic robots! Furry robots! Robots that can play football, ride a bike and climb walls! You can see them all at a new exhibition called *Revolutionary Robots*, at 5 the Lincoln Institute in Chicago, USA.

The exhibition, which opened on October 8, shows what some remarkable robots can do. As I entered the exhibition there were robots and humans there to greet me. I even got to meet a robot named SYRA. SYRA was able to copy the exact look on my face when I saw the exhibition for the first time. 10

Paul Watson, head of the Lincoln Institute, welcomed visitors. 'I promise you, you'll have fun here!' he said. But he stressed that robots are not just toys. 'Robots are going to be a big part of our lives,' he told NfK. 'You can see how they're helping people already.' Rupert the Robot, for example, is used in hospitals to help patients with different needs. This furry robot feels warm and 15 reacts to touch, and people find this comforting.

It wouldn't be the Lincoln Institute without loads of hands-on activities. I got to challenge a robot named Dexter to a game of tick-tack-toe\*. Believe it or not, after a very quick game, it was actually Dexter who won!

In another area of the exhibition, I saw robots playing football. It was an amazing 20 sight. Scientists expect robots to be able to play, and win, a real football game against humans by 2050. Who knows what other fantastic things robots will be able to do by then!

#### Glossary

tick-tack-toe: a game also known as noughts-and-crosses

*Spend 30 minutes on this section.*

Read **Text B**, in the insert, and answer Questions 1–6.

1 Look at the introduction (lines 1–3).  
Give **one** example of a two-word phrase that rhymes.

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[1]

2 Look at lines 4–6.

(a) To get our attention, the writer talks directly to us.  
Give **two** more ways that the writer gets our attention.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

[2]

(b) What is the name of the event the report is about?

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[1]

3 Look at lines 7–10.

Why are commas ( , ) used? Tick (✓) **one box**.

to explain what an exhibition is to

give an example of an exhibition

to add extra details about the exhibition

to emphasise how important the exhibition is

[1]

4 Look at lines 11–16.

(a) What does *head* mean? Explain in your own words.

[1]

.....

(b) Sometimes a speaker's exact words are used. Sometimes reported speech is used.

Give **one** example of direct speech from the third paragraph.

.....

Give **one** example of reported speech from the third paragraph.

.....

[2]

(c) Give **one** example of a passive verb form used in lines 11–16.

[1]

.....

5 Look at lines 17–23.

(a) The Lincoln Institute is famous for exhibitions that visitors can take part in. Give **one** sentence that tells us this.

[1]

.....

(b) Explain how we know the writer expects to win the game. Give **two** ideas.

.....

..... [2]

6 In **Text B**, there are many facts and some opinions. Look at the extracts below from **Text B**.

Which of the extracts below are opinions? Tick (✓) **two boxes**.

It was an amazing sight. This

furry robot ... reacts to touch. I

promise you, you'll have fun here!

I got to challenge a robot named Dexter ...

... there were robots and humans there to greet me.

## Text C

### Lewis Clarke: South Pole trek teenager breaks record

A 16-year-old boy has become the youngest person to trek to the South Pole. Lewis Clarke, from Bristol, has spent almost 50 days battling temperatures as low as -40°C and winds of up to 193 kilometres per hour.

The challenge began on 2 December 2013, two weeks after his 16th birthday and finished on 16 January 2014. It brought an end to an expedition which saw Lewis ski for an average of eight hours a day, covering about 29 kilometres, while pulling his supplies behind him on a sled.

His only help has been from experienced polar guide, and expedition companion, Carl Alvey.

Difficulties encountered by Lewis along the way have included blisters\*, coughing caused by being at high altitudes and a broken ski. But the cold itself has not fazed him. He admits to being the type of person who wears shorts in winter and much prefers snow to heat.

'I knew it would be hard but it's harder than I ever thought it would be' he said, still 80 kilometres from the end. 'However, I think sometimes about how few people have done this. Only 300 in 100 years. And I'm doing it! That's pretty cool.'

Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was full of praise, calling it a 'great achievement'. Mr Fiennes said he had not travelled along the same route, but the conditions would have been dependent on the weather, avoiding crevasses, and how good Lewis was at skiing.

Lewis's record – for the same coast-to-pole route – was previously held by 18-year-old Sarah McNair Landry, from Canada. Aside from making history, Lewis has raised more than £3,000 for the Prince's Trust, a charity helping young people, through the expedition. His father, Steven, said he was 'incredibly proud'.

#### Glossary

blisters: a minor foot injury

5

10

15

20

25

Read **Text C**, in the Insert, and answer questions 1–11.

1 Read lines 1–3. What is Lewis Clarke's great achievement?

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[1]

2 Give **one** word and **one** phrase from lines 4–7 that mean completed.

Word \_\_\_\_\_

Phrase \_\_\_\_\_ [2]

3 Look at this sentence: 'His only help has been from experienced polar guide, and expedition companion, Carl Alvey.' (Lines 8–9)  
Using the information in the sentence above, explain in your own words, **two** ways in which Carl Alvey helped Lewis on the journey.

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[2]

4 What health problem did high ground create for Lewis?

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[1]

5 Look at this sentence: 'But the cold itself has not fazed him.' (Lines 11–12)  
Explain in your own words what *has not fazed him* means.

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[1]

6 Give a quotation that shows Lewis's surprise at the effort needed to complete the expedition.

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[1]

7 Look at this phrase: 'Lewis's record – for the same coast-to-pole route – was previously held by ...' (Line 22)  
Why are dashes ( – ) used in the phrase above?

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[1]

8 What will the money that Lewis has collected be used for?

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[1]

9 What does the last paragraph in **Text C** (lines 22–25) do?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

It looks forward to what Lewis will do in the future.

It summarises the information in the text.

It refers back to the information in the headline.

It describes what Lewis's next challenge will be.

[1]

10 Text C is a news report.

(a) Name **one** technique the writer has used in the headline. Tick (✓) **one** box.

alliteration

personification

simile

onomatopoeia

[1]

(b) Give **one** reason why it is important to have an effective headline.

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[1]

11 Complete the table below so that the features of a journalistic text are matched with an example from **Text C**. The first one has been done for you.

Feature	Example from Text C
• Powerful verbs	• battling (temperatures)
• Third person	• -----
•	• Mr Fiennes said he had not travelled along the same route, but the conditions would have been dependent on the weather, avoiding crevasses, and how good Lewis was at skiing.

[2]